

Message Text

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-----111599 162332Z /61
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, US

SUBJECT:WHITNEY/PIPER CASE

1. JOHN WALLACH HAS A STORY IN THE BOSTON HERALD AUG 16
CITING SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS AS SAYING QUOTE THEY CON-
SIDER THE CASE OF THE TWO AMERICANS--CRAIG WHITNEY OF THE
NEW YORK TIMES AND HAROLD PIPER OF THE BALTIMORE SUN--TO BE
'CLOSED,' FOLLOWING PAYMENT OF FINES BY THE TWO PAPERS AND
PUBLICATION OF BOTH OF THE SOVIET JUDGE'S VERBATIM CHARGES
AGAINST THEM. ALTHOUGH THIS DID NOT AMOUNT TO THE 'RETRAC-
TION' MOSCOW WAS SEEKING OF THE STORIES WRITTEN BY WHITNEY
AND PIPER, THE SOVIETS SAID THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH THE
OUTCOME. END QUOTE.

2. WE UNDERSTAND SOVIET EMBASSY SOURCE IS CHARGE VASEV
AT A RECENT LUNCHEON MEETING WITH SOME NEWSMEN. OTHER
ELEMENTS IN WALLACH'S STORY, HOWEVER, HEADED "STATE DEPART-
MENT PONDS CLOSING TASS OFFICE," ARE QUITE INACCURATE.
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CHRISTOPHER

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